

## Message Text

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ACTION AF-06

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-02

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R 141533Z JUL 75

FM AMEMBASSY OUAGADOUGOU

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9901

INFO AMEMBASSY CONAKRY

AMEMBASSY BAMAKO

AMEMBASSY DAKAR

AMEMBASSY ABIDJAN

AMEMBASSY NIAMEY

AMEMBASSY LOME

AMEMBASSY PARIS

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE OUAGADOUGOU 1740

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: OVIP, PBOR, GV, UV, ML

SUBJECT: VISIT OF PRESIDENT SEKOU TOURE

REF: OUAGA 1721

1. HAVING KEPT ALL OUAGA WAITING FROM HOUR TO HOUR SINCE 10AM, PRESIDENTS LAMIZANA AND TOURE FINALLY ARRIVED FROM CONAKRY AT 1830 JULY 11. SEKOU TOURE WAS ACCOMPANIED BY SEVERAL GUINEAN OFFICIALS, INCLUDING PM BEAVOGUI; FORMER OAU SEC GEN DIALLO TELL I WHO WAS DESCRIBED AS MEMBER OF PDG POLITBUREAU; AND DAOUDA BERETE, GUINEAN AMBASSADOR IN MALI AND UPPER VOLTA. THROUGH A VIGOROUS RADIO CAMPAIGN, GOUV WAS ABLE TO MOBILIZE A SIZEABLE CROWD AT AIRPORT AND IN FRONT OF PRESIDENTIAL PALACE, BUT IT WAS ONLY A FRACTION OF CROWDS MOBILIZED JULY 10. AFTER THEIR ARRIVAL, IT WAS ANNOUNCED THAT BOTH PRESIDENTS WOULD SPEAK IMMEDIATELY IN FRONT OF PRESIDENTIAL

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PALACE. THEY FINALLY ARRIVED THERE AT 1930 AND TOURED THE FRINGES OF THE CROWD. IT WAS ANNOUNCED THAT SPEECHES

WOULD BE POSTPONED UNTIL 0800 JULY 12.

2. IT WOULD SEEM THAT GOUV, AND THE WEATHER, DID THEIR BEST TO MINIMIZE IMPACT OF SEKOU TOURE'S CHARISMA ON VOLTAN MASSES. THE REPEATED DELAYS HAD CONSIDERABLY DAMPENED THE ENTHUSIASM OF THE OUAGADOUGOU POPULATION ACCUSTOMED TO PRESIDENT LAMIZANA'S STRICT ADHERENCE TO ANNOUNCED SCHEDULES. CROWDS BROKE UP PEACEFULLY THAT EVENING BUT IT WAS OBVIOUS THAT ALL PARTICIPANTS WERE GREATLY DISAPPOINTED TO HAVE BEEN ASSEMBLED ONCE MORE FOR NOTHING. THERE WAS SPECULATION THAT GUINEAN VISITORS AND GOUV COULD NOT AGREE ON WHAT SEKOU TOURE SHOULD SAY TO VOLTAN PUBLIC. MEANWHILE, PRESIDENT LAMIZANA WAS GIVING DINNER FOR SEKOU TOURE AND HIS PARTY TO WHICH GOUV MINISTERS AND DIPLOMATIC CORPS WERE INVITED. LATER THAT EVENING A CULTURAL PRESENTATION TOOK PLACE AT THE "MAISON DU PEUPLE" IN HONOR OF GUINEAN GUESTS. FRENCH AMBASSADOR BLANC, WHO HAD ORIGINALLY INTENDED TO ATTEND SOME OF THE FUNCTIONS IN HIS CAPACITY AS DEAN OF DIPLOMATIC CORPS, FINALLY DECIDED TO STAY AT HOME THROUGHOUT SEKOU TOURE'S VISIT.

3. AT 0800 JULY 12, THE CITY OF OUAGADOUGOU WAS INUNDATED WITH HEAVY RAINS, THE MORO NABA, EMPEROR OF THE MOSSIS, HAVING THE DAY BEFORE HELD A SPECIAL AND VERY IMPRESSIVE CEREMONY, TO INSURE ADEQUATE RAIN DURING THE PLANTING SEASON. EVERYONE ASSUMED THAT THE SPEECHES WOULD BE AGAIN POSTPONED BUT BY 10AM RAINS HAD SUBSIDED SUFFICIENTLY FOR GOUV RADIO TO ANNOUNCE THAT THE CEREMONY WOULD TAKE PLACE IMMEDIATELY. IT TOOK ANOTHER 45 MINUTES BEFORE THE PRESIDENTS ARRIVED AND, BY THAT TIME, THE CROWD WHICH WAS ESTIMATED AT 10 TO 15,000 PEOPLE WAS GETTING NERVOUS. LAMIZANA SPOKE FIRST. HIS SPEECH WAS SHORT (10 MINUTES) AND TO THE POINT. HE THANKED SEKOU TOURE FOR RECEPTION HE HAD RECEIVED IN GUINEA, THANKED HIM ALSO FOR HIS EFFORTS TO SETTLE BORDER CONFLICT BETWEEN UPPER VOLTA AND MALI BUT REMINDED HIS AUDIENCE THAT LOME MEDIATION COMMISSION HAD RESPONSIBILITY FOR FINDING SOLUTION TO THE CONFLICT. HE SAID NOTHING ABOUT MEETING MALIAN PRESIDENT MOUSSA TRAORE IN CONAKRY. HE THEN DECORATED SEKOU TOURE WITH MEDAL OF LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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COMMANDER OF UPPER VOLTA'S NATIONAL ORDER.

4. SEKOU TOURE THEN TOOK OVER THE MICROPHONE AND ANNOUNCED THAT HE WOULD ONLY SAY A FEW WORDS. MEMBERS OF THE DIPLOMATIC CORPS WITH EXPERIENCE IN GUINEA BRACED THEMSELVES (WE HAD ALREADY BEEN STANDING THERE FOR ONE HOUR). SEKOU TOURE SPOKE FOR MORE THAN TWO HOURS. HIS SPEECH CAN BE DIVIDED INTO THREE PARTS:

A) THE USUAL SEKOU TOURE DIATRIBE AGAINST IMPERIALISM,

COLONIALISM,CAPITALISM,TRIBALISM,SOUTH AFRICA, RHODESIA,  
ISRAEL.

B) AN EMOTIONAL PLEA FOR RECONCILIATION BETWEEN  
UPPER VOLTA AND MALI.

C) A LESSON IN CIVIC RESPONSIBILITIES, DRAWING  
HEAVILY ON EXPERIENCES OF GUINEAN "REVOLUTION".

5. ON PART (A) OF HIS SPEECH, SEKOU TOURE RECEIVED  
ENTHUSIASTIC APPLAUSE, ESPECIALLY ON SOME OF THE ANCIENT  
AND OVBIOUS TRUTHS WHICH HE SEEMS TO BE ABLE TO PRESENT  
CONVINCINGLY AS HIS OWN INVENTIONS. ON PARTS (B) AND (C)  
THE APPLAUSE WAS SPORADIC AND CAME LARGELY FROM THE  
GUINEAN CONTINGENT. IT WAS OBVIOUS THAT MEMBERS OF GOUV  
CABINET,INCLUDING PRESIDENT LAMIZANA, WERE NOT AT ALL  
AMUSED BY PART (C).

6. SEKOU TOURE'S DEPARTURE FOR BAMAKO WHICH WAS  
ORIGINALLY SCHEDULED FOR 0900 FINALLY TOOK PLACE AT  
1415. ALL THE AMENITIES OF SUCH PRESIDENTIAL DEPARTURES  
WERE RESPECTED, BUT THERE WAS LITTLE WARMTH IN THEM.  
MEMBERS OF THE OUAGA DIPLOMATIC CORPS FELT SORRY FOR THEIR  
COLLEAGUES IN BAMAKO WHO HAD UNDOUBTEDLY BEEN STANDING AT  
THE AIRPORT FOR SEVERAL HOURS WAITING FOR SEKOU TOURE'S  
ARRIVAL.

7. COMMENT: CONSENSUS AMONG DIPLOMATIC CORPS IS THAT  
LAMIZANA'S VISIT TO CONAKRY AND SEKOU TOURE'S VISIT TO  
OUAGA ACCOMPLISHED VERY LITTLE IN TERMS OF SETTling THE  
BORDER DISPUTE BETWEEN MALI AND UPPER VOLTA. BY GOING TO  
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CONAKRY, AND GIVING SEKOU TOURE THE OPPORTUNITY TO CLAIM  
CREDIT FOR PROGRESS ACCOMPLISHED THROUGH LOME MEDIATION  
COMMISSION, PRESIDENT LAMIZANA RISKED TO ALIENATE TOGO'S  
PRESIDENT EYADEMA. THERE WAS SPECULATION THAT TOGO'S  
FOREIGN MINISTER HUNDELE WHO WAS EXPECTED IN OUAGA ON  
JULY 14 TO VERIFY RELEASE OF MALIAN PRISONERS AND VEHICLES,  
MIGHT NOW POSTPONE HIS VISIT. MY CONVERSATIONS WITH  
GUINEAN PRIME MINISTER AND WITH DIALLO TELLI  
SUGGEST THAT GUINEANS HAD LITTLE IDEA OF POPULAR MOOD IN  
UPPER VOLTA. DIALLO TELLI KEPT ASKING ME WHO WERE THE  
MEMBERS OF THE VOLTAN "WAR PARTY," APPARENTLY UNAWARE  
THAT THREE OF THEM, FOREIGN MINISTER ZERBO, MINIISTER OF  
EDUCATION LANKOUANDE, AND MINISTER OF YOUTH, SPORTS  
AND CULTURE TIENTARABOUM, HAD ACCOMPANIED LAMIZANA TO  
CONAKRY. GUINEANS WOULD NOT UNDERSTAND WHY ALL VOLTAN  
MILITARY, INCLUDING MINISTER OF DEFENSE BABA SY,  
WERE WEARING CAMPAIGN UNIFORMS AS THOUGH "UPPER VOLTA  
WAS AT WAR." TIME WILL TELL, OF COURSE, WHETHER SEKOU

TOURE'S SPEECH, WHICH WAS WIDELY INTERPRETED AS AN ATTEMPT  
TO APPEAL TO VOLTAN PUBLIC OPINION AGAINST WISHES OF GOUV,  
WILL HAVE THE DESIRED EFFECT BUT THE INITIAL REACTION  
APPEARS TO HAVE BEEN RATHER NEGATIVE.  
GRAHAM

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